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Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)
Second session
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Agenda item 10
Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee on the work of its second session

Report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) on the work of its second session

Rapporteur: Mr. Mamadou Mbodj (Senegal)

I. Introduction

1. In accordance with General Assembly resolutions 67/216 of 21 December 2012 and 69/226 of 19 December 2014, the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) held its second session from 14 to 16 April 2015 at the United Nations Office at Nairobi. The Committee held six plenary meetings and four meetings of its working group.

II. Organization of work

A. Opening of the session

2. The second session was opened on Tuesday, 14 April 2015, by Maryse Gautier (France), Co-Chair of the Preparatory Committee. The Committee proceeded to elect María Duarte, Minister of Urban Development and Housing (Ecuador), as its Co-Chair, to replace Diego Aulestia, former Minister of Urban Development and Housing (Ecuador).

3. Opening statements were made by the Co-Chairs of the Preparatory Committee, the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) and the Cabinet Secretary for Land, Housing and Urban Development of Kenya, in his capacity as representative of the host country.

B. Election of officers

4. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 14 April 2015, the Preparatory Committee elected Elena Szolgayova (Slovakia) as Vice-Chair to replace Csaba Kőrösi (Hungary) and Jaime Silva (Chile) as Vice-Chair to replace Barbara Richards (Chile). Thus, the officers of the Committee at its second session were as follows:

Co-Chairs:
María Duarte (Ecuador)
Maryse Gautier (France)

Vice-Chairs:
Eric Miangar (Chad)
Jaime Silva (Chile)
Daniela Grabmüllerová (Czech Republic)
Tania Roediger-Vorwerk (Germany)
Purnomo A. Chandra (Indonesia)
Mamadou Mbodj (Senegal) (also designated as Rapporteur)
Elena Szolgayova (Slovakia)
MajidHasan Al-Suwaidi (United Arab Emirates)

C. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work

5. At its 1st plenary meeting, the Preparatory Committee adopted the agenda for its second session, on the basis of the provisional agenda (A/CONF.226/PC.2/1), as follows:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work.
4. Preparations for the Conference.
5. Organizational matters:
   (a) Provisional rules of procedure of the Conference;
   (b) Arrangements for accreditation and participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders in the preparatory process and in the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III).
6. Progress to date in the implementation of the outcomes of the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the New Urban Agenda.
7. Arrangements for the third session of the Preparatory Committee.
8. Other matters.
9. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee on the work of its second session.
10. Conclusion of the session.

6. At the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee decided that its working group on operational and administrative matters, established at its first session, should consider the following agenda items: item 4 (Preparations for the Conference), item 5 (a) (Provisional rules of procedure of the Conference, document A/CONF.226/PC.2/2), item 5 (b) (Arrangements for accreditation and participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders in the preparatory process and in the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), document A/CONF.226/PC.2/3) and item 7 (Arrangements for the third session of the Preparatory Committee) over the course of four meetings. The Preparatory Committee also designated Vice-Chair Tania Roediger-Vorwerk (Germany) to serve as Chair of the working group to replace Majid Hasan Al-Suwaidi (United Arab Emirates).

D. Organizational matters

7. At its 1st plenary meeting, the Preparatory Committee considered a list of 33 non-governmental organizations and other major groups recommended by the secretariat for special accreditation to the preparatory process and Habitat III (see A/CONF.226/PC.2/4) and a related draft decision submitted by the Co-Chairs through which the accreditation of those 33 organizations would be approved (A/CONF.226/PC.2/L.1). The Committee adopted the draft decision. Statements on points of order were made by the representatives of Argentina, Algeria, Egypt, the Russian Federation and South Africa.

E. Attendance

8. The second session of the Preparatory Committee was attended by representatives of 97 States Members of the United Nations and members of specialized agencies and of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Representatives of intergovernmental and United Nations system organizations, non-governmental organizations and other major groups also attended. A list of participants is contained in document A/CONF.226/PC.2/INF/1.[1]

F. Preparations for the Conference

9. At the 1st plenary meeting, the Secretary-General of the Conference reported on the activities undertaken by the secretariat in preparation for the Conference. He also provided a briefing on work to be carried out in the period between April 2015 and the opening of the Conference.

G. Progress to date in the implementation of the outcomes of the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the New Urban Agenda

10. At its 1st plenary meeting, the Preparatory Committee considered agenda item 6. Five representatives of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and a representative of the United Nations Environment Programme presented 22 issue papers produced by United Nations system bodies regarding six subject areas for the new urban agenda: social cohesion and equity – liveable cities; spatial development; urban frameworks; urban economy; urban ecology and environment; and urban housing and basic services.

11. At the same meeting, statements on points of order were made by the representatives of Bangladesh, Brazil, Egypt and the United States of America.

12. Also at the same meeting, statements during the general exchange of views[2] were made by Alejandro Nieto Enriquez, Vice-Minister of Urban Planning of Mexico (on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States), the representative of Egypt (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China) and the representative of the European Union.

13. At the 2nd plenary meeting, on 14 April, statements were made by Maria Duarte, Minister of Urban Development and Housing of Ecuador; Morais Guy, Minister for Works and Housing of Jamaica; Sam Engola, Minister of State for Housing of Uganda; Kisaburo Ishii, Vice-Minister for Land, Infrastructure and Hokkaido Development of Japan; Alejandro Nieto Enriquez, Vice-Minister of Urban Planning of Mexico; and the representatives of Argentina, Burkina Faso, Chile, the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Indonesia, Israel, Kenya, Lesotho, Myanmar, Norway, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Turkey, the United States and Zambia.

14. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the non-governmental organization Metropolis – World Association of the Major Metropolises.

15. At the 3rd plenary meeting, on 15 April, statements were made by Mukhtar Abdulkarim Adam, State Minister of Environment, Forestry and Physical Development of the Sudan; Zou Kota-Fredericks, Deputy Minister of Human Settlements of South Africa (on behalf of South Africa and thereafter on behalf of the States members of the African Union); and the representatives of Bahrain, Brazil, Burundi, the Central African Republic, Cuba, Madagascar, Nepal, Nigeria, Paraguay, Thailand, the United Republic of Tanzania and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

16. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the World Meteorological Organization, the International Labour Organization, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (on behalf of the five United Nations regional commissions) and the World Food Programme.

17. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the following non-governmental organizations: World Vision International, the International Society of City and Regional Planners, PAX Romana (also on behalf of the children and youth major group), the Habitat International Coalition and United Cities and Local Governments.

18. At the 4th plenary meeting, on 15 April, a statement was made by the representative of Chad.

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[1] To be issued.

[2] Statements that were provided to the Secretariat are available from https://papersmart.unon.org/prepcom2.

19. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

20. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the following non-governmental organizations: Habitat for Humanity International, the International Federation of Building and Wood Workers, the International Union of Architects, the Huairou Commission, Action Aid, the Habitat Professionals Forum, the American Planning Association, the World Future Council Foundation and the European Cyclists' Federation.

21. At its 5th plenary meeting, on 16 April, the Preparatory Committee concluded its general exchange of views under agenda item 6 and heard statements by Thomas Silberhorn, Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany; Mii Lantey Vander Puye, Deputy Minister for Local Government and Rural Development of Ghana; Datuk Abdul Rahman Dahlan, Minister of Urban Well-being, Housing and Local Government of Malaysia; Ján Ilavský, State Secretary, Ministry of Environment of Slovakia; and the representatives of Algeria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Morocco and Senegal.

22. At the same meeting, statements were made by representatives of the United Nations University, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.

23. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the following non-governmental organizations: the Colegio Nacional de Jurisprudencia Urbanística; the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy; Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing; Shack Dwellers International; Réseau d'Échanges Stratégiques pour une Afrique Urbaine Durable; the New School for Public Engagement; Cities Alliance; and the University of Pennsylvania.

H. Other matters

24. At the 6th plenary meeting, on 16 April, under agenda item 8, "Other matters", a statement was made by the representative of Brazil. The Co-Chair (France) took note of the statement.

I. Report of the working group on administrative and operational matters

25. At the 6th plenary meeting, Mr. Franz Marré (Germany) presented a report on behalf of the Chair of the working group on administrative and operational matters on the outcome of the group discussions. The working group held four meetings over the course of the second session and made recommendations on one draft resolution and two draft decisions to be adopted under agenda item 4 (see sect. L below). The Committee took note of the oral report presented on behalf of the Chair of the working group.

J. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee on the work of its second session

26. At the 6th plenary meeting, the Rapporteur introduced the draft report of the second session of the Preparatory Committee as contained in document A/CONF.226/PC.2/L.3.

27. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representative of the United States and the Secretary of the Preparatory Committee.

28. The Preparatory Committee adopted the draft report on the work of its second session and authorized the Rapporteur to finalize the report in collaboration with the secretariat in the light of the proceedings of the session.

K. Conclusion of the session

29. At the 6th plenary meeting, concluding statements were made by the Co-Chairs of the Preparatory Committee and the Secretary-General of the Conference.

30. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the European Union, Indonesia and the United States.

31. The second session of the Preparatory Committee was closed by the Co-Chair (France).

L. Decisions adopted by the Preparatory Committee

32. At its 1st plenary meeting, the Preparatory Committee adopted draft decision A/CONF.226/PC.2/L.1 on accreditation of non-governmental organizations and other major groups to the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) and its preparatory process.

33. At its 6th plenary meeting, the Preparatory Committee adopted a draft resolution on preparations for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) as contained in document A/CONF.226/PC.2/CRP.2; a draft decision on accreditation of non-governmental organizations and other major groups to the Conference and its preparatory process as contained in document A/CONF.226/PC.2/L.1; a draft decision submitted by Ecuador and Indonesia on the dates and venue of the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) and dates of the Conference as contained in document A/CONF.226/PC.2/L.2; and a draft decision on preparations for the Conference as contained in document A/CONF.226/PC.2/CRP.1.

34. The resolution and decisions are set out in annex I to the present report.

Annex I

Resolution and decisions adopted by the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) at its second session

Resolution

1/2015 Preparations for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)

The Preparatory Committee,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 69/226 of 19 December 2014, and in particular its paragraphs 11 and 17,

Taking note of the proposed thematic areas, issue papers being developed and policy units to be established in the context of the preparations for its third session, bearing in mind that additional issue papers may be developed,

Acknowledging that the issue papers as well as the outputs of policy units are intended to serve as informative technical inputs for consideration by participating States[a] during their deliberations in preparation of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the Conference to make all possible efforts, in collaboration with relevant United Nations specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, to publish all the issue papers on the Conference website as soon as possible, and no later than 31 May 2015, and provide translations of the issue papers, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources;

2. *Invites* participating States[a] to transmit to the Secretary-General of the Conference written comments on the final issue papers from the secretariat, preferably by the end of June 2015, to be followed by the consultative process to be undertaken involving stakeholders, including local authorities and their associations, in July 2015; all comments will be published on the Conference website immediately upon receipt by the Secretariat to ensure full transparency;

3. *Calls upon* participating States to support the work of the policy units, including by nominating suitably qualified technical experts to compose them, with a view to facilitating the elaboration of policy recommendations which may contribute, together with the inputs from broad regional and thematic consultations among all stakeholders, to the work to be undertaken by the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee in preparing the draft outcome document of the Conference;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the Conference, in close consultation with the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee, in selecting technical experts to compose each policy unit, to keep a balance between Government-nominated technical experts and others, and to be guided by the need for equitable geographical representation and gender balance;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General of the Conference to make available for comments, as early as possible but by no later than the end of December 2015, on the Conference website, the final outputs of the policy units, and to notify participating States and all accredited stakeholders accordingly;

6. *Invites* participating States and all accredited stakeholders to transmit their comments in relation to paragraph 5 above to the Secretary-General of the Conference by no later than January 2016 and *requests* the Secretary-General to publish these comments on the Conference website;

7. *Requests* the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee, in preparing the draft outcome document, to take into account the comments received;

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[a] According to paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 67/216, participating States are all States Members of the United Nations and members of specialized agencies and of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

8. *Encourages* the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee to distribute to all participating States, as early as possible and no later than six months in advance of the Conference, the draft outcome document of the Conference;

9. *Decides* to take into account, at its third session, in its deliberations on the draft outcome document, inputs from informal consultations to be convened in New York, while respecting the mandate foreseen in paragraph 17 of resolution 69/226.

Decisions

1/2015 Accreditation of non-governmental organizations and other major groups to the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban development (Habitat III) and its preparatory process

The Preparatory Committee,

Recalling paragraph 20 of General Assembly resolution 69/226 of 19 December 2014,

Decides to approve the recommendation of the Secretariat for the special accreditation to the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Development (Habitat III) and its preparatory process of the 33 non-governmental organizations and other major groups listed in the annex to the note by the Secretariat.[b]

2/2015 Dates and venue of the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) and dates of the Conference

The Preparatory Committee,

Recalling paragraphs 7 and 8 (d) of General Assembly resolution 69/226,

1. *Endorses* the proposal of Government of Indonesia that the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) be held in Jakarta from 25 to 27 July 2016;

2. *Also endorses* the proposal of the Government of Ecuador that Habitat III be held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016.

3/2015 Preparations for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)

The Preparatory Committee

Invites the General Assembly at its seventieth session to discuss the most appropriate way, including the possibility of convening an extraordinary session of the Preparatory Committee, to advance negotiations on the outstanding issues in the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), including the draft provisional rules of procedure,[c] arrangements for the accreditation and participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders in the preparatory process and in Habitat III,[d] as well as other issues that might arise in the interim period, and the proposals of the Secretary-General of the Conference on improved participation of local authorities and other stakeholders in the preparatory process and the Conference itself, building on the positive experience enabled by the rules of procedure and inclusive modalities of the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), in order for the measures put in place to be effective at the third session of the Preparatory Committee.

[b] A/CONF.226/PC.2/4.

[c] See A/CONF.226/PC.2/2.

[d] See A/CONF.226/PC.2/3.

Annex II

Documents issued for the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)

A/CONF.226/PC.2/1. Provisional agenda and annotations

A/CONF.226/PC.2/2. Draft provisional rules of procedure of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)

A/CONF.226/PC.2/3. Arrangements for accreditation and participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders in the preparatory process and in the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)

A/CONF.226/PC.2/4. Arrangements for accreditation and participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders in the preparatory process and in the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development

A/CONF.226/PC.2/5. Note verbale dated 15 April 2015 from the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme in Nairobi addressed to the secretariat of UN-Habitat

A/CONF.226/PC.2/6. Report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) on the work of its second session

A/CONF.226/PC.2/L.1. Draft decision on accreditation of non-governmental organizations and other major groups to the preparatory process and the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) and its preparatory process

A/CONF.226/PC.2/L.2. Draft decision on dates and venue of the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) and dates of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)

A/CONF.226/PC.2/L.3. Draft report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat II) on the work of its second session

A/CONF.226/PC.2/CRP.1. Draft resolution on preparations for the Conference

A/CONF.226/PC.2/CRP.2. Draft decision on preparations for the Conference

A/CONF.226/PC.2/INF.1. List of participants